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Hayley and Holly gain prestigious scholarship



LtoR Charles Page, Hayley Millen, Holly Harrison, Norm Waldie

Young West Australians, Hayley Millen and Holly Harrison, have both been awarded a prestigious McIntosh Memorial Scholarship.

Awarded to descendants of air force personnel for tertiary education, the McIntosh scholarship is named after Lt John McIntosh who, together with Ray Parer, became the first pilot to fly a single-engine aircraft from England to Australia in 1919.

Tragically, McIntosh was killed in an aircraft crash in the wheatbelt town of Pithara in 1921, following which a trust fund was established to assist the tertiary education of veterans' children. The Trust was transferred to RAAFA to oversee in 1983, and is now valued at \$5,000 per scholarship.

And as the first McIntosh scholarships to be awarded since

2019 (due to COVID), this year's applications have been labelled as particularly outstanding, with 24 submissions received.

Hayley Millen, whose great grandfather served with the RAAF in WWII as an aircraft instrument repairer, said winning the scholarship meant a lot to her great grandmother and indeed her entire family.

"Having this support to assist me in my medical sonography degree at Edith Cowan University is incredibly helpful," says Hayley, who graduated from Carine Senior High School.

"The course is close to my heart and I chose it when my dad had his heart valve affected by COVID. Before he was released from hospital, he underwent an echocardiogram and the scan detected the damaged valve and saved his life. It was this experience

that led me into the field, so that I can also help to save lives."

Having graduated from Bunbury Cathedral Grammar School, **Holly Harrison** qualified for the scholarship through her grandfather, who served with the RAAF in Western Australia during WWII.

A previous school captain, music captain, and the winner of many academic and music awards, Holly has displayed a deep passion for music since she was a small child and has recently commenced a four-year Bachelor of Music (Contemporary Performance) degree at Edith Cowan University.

"This scholarship has really given me a sense of stability," says the Bunbury local who is an accomplished musician and plays the piano, flute, saxophone and oboe.

"Moving from Bunbury during this

current housing crisis has been difficult and a big adjustment, however the scholarship has really made it easier for me to settle into Perth life and I am extremely grateful."



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PURPOSE

Pursuing excellence in care and heritage

VALUES

Respect; Care; Honesty

APPROACH

Creating RAAFA communities open to all

President's view



By Clive Robartson AM

Hello for another edition of Air Mail. The lead article in the last edition heralded the commencement on Stirling apartments and as I write the crane is being installed and concrete being poured for the first-floor deck. I am delighted with the progress; it is on time and if all goes well, we should celebrate completion sometime mid-2025. This and other priority projects we are involved with have placed a lot of pressure on our staff and I thank and congratulate them all for their commitment.

Special General Meeting

Notice of the Special General Meeting of the Association has been circulated to all members in a special edition of Air Mail in May. In addition, all members have received a "Notice of Special General Meeting and Explanatory Information Booklet" and those eligible, an

opportunity to submit a postal vote.

The postal vote can of course be returned in the enclosed reply-paid envelope, however for those living on Estates, ballot boxes are located in the estate office. Please take the time to vote and return your postal vote by 4.00pm on Wednesday, 12 June 2024 or come along and attend the SGM.

The Proposed Resolution is somewhat technical, but this is to meet all the necessary legalese. In essence you are voting "to convert the Association's registration from Incorporated Association to a Public Company Limited by Guarantee". The Division Council strongly support this change and I encourage you to support the Special Resolution.

In the special edition of Air Mail there is a very detailed Table of Changes that provides a commentary of the substantive changes, showing the clauses in the current Rules that are to be omitted or replaced, and the replacement amendments proposed in the new Constitution.

The Association believes it is now time to become a Company (by Limited Guarantee) to meet the expectations of the different regulatory bodies that RAAFA is required to comply with.

AFA National

I attended a joint meeting of AFA Limited, our National body, held jointly with the Federation Council on 20 and 21 May in Melbourne. The

Federation Council was established by AFA in 2022 to act as a liaison group between the National Board of Directors and the Divisions in each State. The Federation Council consists of the President of each Division, or their nominee and is to meet at least four times each year and with the Board once each year.

Our Division (WA) has agreed to provide a Secretariate for the next 12 months and I have agreed to be the Federation Council Chairman during that time. A Charter has been developed that in essence is to ensure that the Board of AFA Ltd acts in the best interest of its members and as a guardian of the AFA Ltd constitution.

The Federation Council was pleased to endorse the five strategic objectives and key initiatives developed by the National Board last September.

They are:

- Collaboration and partnerships - continue to build relationships and develop opportunities with the Air Force, Divisions, other ESOs, sponsors and business partners.
- Commemoration - prioritise fellowship, heritage, recognition, and storytelling.
- Service and support programs - advocate to governments, DVA and other ESOs for veterans and their families.
 - Take up advocacy positions in Veterans' and Families' hubs.

- Support veterans and family members who are homeless or in necessitous circumstances.
- Grow membership and community support - utilise social networks, paid memberships, and volunteers, reaching out to serving Air Force members.
- Financial sustainability - plan a capital appeal and apply for deductible gift recipient status.

All of these initiatives are captured in our WA strategic plan.

Veteran homelessness

I am delighted to see the joint venture we have with the RSL in South Perth nearing completion. I foresee with the appointment of our Veteran Services Program Manager to coordinate this project in conjunction with ARVL, that we will be able to embark on our strategic commitment to help end veteran homelessness in WA.

To all those wonderful people who have "joined forces to end veteran homelessness" campaign and kindly donated, I thank you in the knowledge that we have several corporate organisations very interested in these projects. I hope that we will soon be able to start on the construction of the 16-unit development in Cannington.

I look forward to catching up with many of you on Wednesday, 19 June for our Special General Meeting, with registration starting from 9.30am.



Reminder Notice Special General Meeting 2024 Air Force Association (Western Australian Division) Inc. trading as RAAFA

Wednesday, 19 June 2024

10.30am (registration from 9.30am)

RAAFA Club - Bull Creek, AFME, Bull Creek Drive, Bull Creek

The Division Council hereby:

- a) calls a Special General Meeting pursuant to clause 10.8(b) of the Rules of the Air Force Association (Western Australian Division) Incorporated

ABN 97 352 605 141 (RAAFA) approved at an annual general meeting of RAAFA on 28 October 2022 (Current Rules);

- b) provides notice of such Special General Meeting pursuant to clause 10.8(c) of the Rules of RAAFA, including the following details:

- Date: Wednesday, 19 June 2024
- Time: 10.30am
- Place: RAAFA Club, Bull Creek; and

- c) calls such Special General Meeting for the purpose of considering and voting on the proposed Special Resolutions set out below regarding the conversion of the registration of the Association from an incorporated association under the Associations Act to a public company limited by guarantee (PCLG) under the Corporations Act.

Information has also been posted to all RAAFA members and those members eligible to vote have been sent voting information.

RAAFA Estate
Merriwa

MINI FETE

Sunday
11 August 2024
from 9am

Crafts, Books, Linen,
Jams, Cakes, Toys,
Plants, Raffles and
Devonshire Tea

Air Force Association
(WA Division) Inc.
Trading as RAAFA

18 Bowman Street, South Perth WA 6151

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Enquiries

Julie Stearne

E

airmail@raafawa.org.au

Air Mail story
deadlines

5 July for August / September
6 September for October / November

Please email articles to airmail@raafawa.org.au (preferred)
or post to Julie Stearne, 18 Bowman Street, South Perth WA 6151.

Message from the CEO



By Michelle Fyfe

Unbelievably, we are heading into the winter months (apparently!), and I am contemplating how quickly the year is flying by. It seems like I have only been part of the RAAFA team for five minutes, but as I write this it's actually 385 days since I started my role and 324 days as the CEO, during which time I have learned so much and have loved every minute.

One thing that has become apparent to me about RAAFA is what a diverse and wonderful organisation we are. Indeed, I think it's good to be reminded of the many moving parts within our business, all of which are delivering important services to our community. As a team, we are all involved with acts of service for each other and our RAAFA community, acts that make a real difference to people's quality of life. Of this we should all be very proud.

International Nurses Day

The month of May highlighted two very special groups of people who are significantly involved in service to others. On 12 May, International Nurses Day saw tribute being paid to the nursing workforce worldwide.

RAAFA's nursing team are amongst the very best. Our nurses work hard to ensure our residents' needs are met and to build strong connections with both residents and families, becoming a familiar face that can be depended on, whether this is in our residences or in the community via RAAFA Connect.

National Volunteer Week

Also in May, National Volunteer Week, between 20 to 26 May gave us the opportunity to recognise and appreciate the invaluable contributions that volunteers make. We have a large community of volunteers that make a significant contribution to our estates, our care facilities and in our Aviation Heritage Museum. Many of these volunteers are also residents of our estates and make a real difference to the lives of their neighbours, through embodying the spirit of community.

Volunteerism strengthens communities. By actively participating in activities that relate directly to estate and community initiatives, we have seen that volunteers become more deeply connected to their environment, and to the friends and neighbours they share it with. This sense of engagement fosters a feeling

of belonging and pride in the community's well-being.

National Volunteer Week provides an opportunity for community members to come together, share experiences, and celebrate collective achievements. It promotes a sense of belonging and solidarity, reinforcing the idea that positive change can be achieved through collective action.

I know that there were different ways of marking Volunteer Week across RAAFA and want to add my own expression of heartfelt gratitude.

Growth

RAAFA has seen some growth over the last 12 months and we now have nearly 900 staff and over 2000 residents across retirement living and residential care. From payroll to health and wellbeing, from safety to contracts, our staff undertake a huge workload.

For example, our property department, to date, has undertaken over 33,000 work orders. Some of the other statistics that caught my attention were - almost 32,000 visitors to the Aviation Heritage Museum (a number that will be smashed this year), 30,000 meals served at the RAAFA Club in Bull Creek (not including functions), and a whopping 490,000 meals that are served annually in our residential care facilities.

But putting our stats and growth aside, I'd like to flag other news with you. As you will read, our

Stirling apartments construction project is proceeding smoothly and to schedule. At the same time, the renovations taking place at our new veteran accommodation - Sir Valston Hancock House - are underway and are progressing well. And our inaugural ARVL Awareness Week was also hugely supported, making it a great success - something we, as an organisation, are incredibly proud of.

I feel extremely privileged to have been a part of the RAAFA team for almost a year and am proud to work in tandem with a team of dedicated staff who are passionate about the wellbeing of our shared RAAFA community.

I mentioned at the start of this piece, about coming to appreciate RAAFA's breadth of diversity in both people and activities. And as I journey into year two, I've also come to understand the true strength that comes from our community aligning around a common goal. We are individuals from diverse backgrounds, experiences, and perspectives coming together, transcending differences to work towards a shared vision.

My own personal growth over the past year has benefited immensely from the acts of service and community that I see every day - understanding, empathy, and mutual respect among team members, creating a strong foundation for the sustainable, resilient, unique and impactful organisation we all share.

Why the change?

As RAAFA navigates the shifting landscape of providing sustainable aged care, accommodation and veteran support services into the future, we recognise the importance of adapting to remain relevant and competitive.

Embracing change enables us to innovate, improve processes, and meet growing quality and compliance requirements. It's a testament to RAAFA's long resilience and flexibility that we have been able to adapt over time in the past, navigating these shifts with determination.

The Division Council see this change not as a disruption, but as a catalyst for driving us closer to our shared goals.

Together, we can use the need for change to shape the RAAFA that will propel us toward a brighter future.

What does the change mean for residents?

Will there be any changes to our rights as residents or to our contracts?

- **No. RAAFA will continue to operate under the Retirement Villages Act in Western Australia, so there will be no changes to residents' rights under the Act. Since the legal identity of RAAFA will not change, contracts will remain legally binding on both parties and security of tenure will not be affected.**

How will we know our funds are safe with this proposed change?

- **RAAFA retains prudential limits set by Division Council, which residents' funds retained cannot go below. RAAFA already has one of the most generous buy back periods of**

all retirement village operators in Western Australia, even more generous than the new legislation being drafted proposes and that will not change as a result of the conversion.

Will there be increased central support office costs for the Estates if the conversion goes ahead?

- **No, there will not be any increased costs as a direct result of this proposal.**

What now?

All members have been sent a Notice of Special General Meeting, providing an Agenda, the proposed Resolution, and explanatory statement, and details regarding the vote and process.

While the change has no impact on RAAFA Members, it is important that you take the opportunity to fully inform yourself about this

proposal. RAAFA has a strong commitment to our Members and highly value your input. We are hopeful that as many of you as possible will engage with this process to ensure we can take this important step for the Association together.

If you have not received the Notice of Special General Meeting by mail or email, please contact secretary@raafawa.org.au to advise us.

For more information visit www.raafawa.vote or use the QR code.



Make the move sooner



“My biggest piece of advice to anyone thinking of moving into retirement living, is not to leave it too late, and certainly that’s what pretty much everyone says who I’ve spoken to,” says RAAFA’s Amity Village Albany resident of 18 months Glenys Hemley.

“I’d suggest talking to people who have recently made the move and who are already in villages, as well as going and having a look at them. Do your own research, as retirement villages can all be very different.”

Glenys explains that she was born in Wagin to a family who farmed in Dumbleyung, before moving to Albany when she was 10 years old, where she undertook most of her schooling and then went to teacher’s college.

After marrying a farmer, she moved to Wickepin and then Gnowangerup, during which time she had her three daughters and one son, who is still farming today.

“After we left the farm we moved to Albany and still had quite a big double story house on a large block,” Glenys explains. “I’ve always been used to a lot of space, which was perhaps one of the most

challenging things to become accustomed to when I first moved into the village. But I felt the move had to happen and I did want to do it sooner rather than later.

“I also knew quite a few people who were already living at RAAFA’s Amity Village and had spent quite a lot of time here with close friends, so I was pretty familiar with the village and already knew I liked it.”

Since moving into the retirement estate, Glenys has immersed herself in social activities, she attends the regular meals, enjoys the craft and card groups, and is currently organising a quiz night with members of the social committee.

“As well as being involved in quite a few things outside the village, I’m also still a keen gardener and have been doing lots of propagating of cuttings which are being sold for a gold coin donation to fundraise for the social committee,” explains Glenys, who now has nine grandchildren.

“I did come in here thinking I would be reading a book or knitting all day, but that couldn’t be further from the truth,” she laughs.

Loving where you live

When friends of Gavin and Jan Manson moved into RAAFA’s Amity Village early in 2023, the couple went over to visit them and by their own admission were very impressed with what they saw.

“Our friends showed us around the estate and their lovely home, and we just loved what we saw, so we went home and had a very good chat,” laughs Jan, who was born in Merredin but spent many years living in Christchurch with her New Zealander husband, Gavin.

“We had talked about moving from our larger family home in about five years’ time, but after that visit we decided to put our names down for the estate, and six weeks later we had a call from Cheryl to say there was a home available for us.

“Needless to say, we walked in and fell in love with it, so within just a few months we had sold our house and moved into our new home, which pretty much felt like a brand-new unit.”

Jan explains that one thing that she and her husband have been mindful of was not overcrowding their new home and trying to fit all of their previous furniture into the three-bedroom, one bathroom unit.

“Gavin is a carpenter and so he was very organised in that he made a model of the floorplan

and we decided what furniture we could fit in, and what needed to be changed or essentially cut down,” explains Jan, who has been married to Gavin for close to 58 years.

“We definitely wanted to keep the house looking spacious, so we were very choosy about what furniture we put in and where.”

Jan says it took a few months, but the couple now have their home shipshape with everything put away in its place, leaving them time to begin to attend more of the social gatherings at the estate, including the roast lunches and morning teas.

“We are also in the Albany Probus club, so we are very involved with that, in fact there are quite a number of people living on the estate who are also Probus members, and so it’s nice to see so many familiar faces,” explains Jan, who, together with Gavin, has a son and twin daughters, as well as six grandchildren.

“But even if you didn’t know anyone, the village is so friendly and welcoming, everybody says hello to each other, and people chat and mix really well.

“And because it is a closed community, we also feel very safe and secure at night.

“All in all, we feel very lucky to be here. Yes, it can seem quite a big move, but I think as long as you talk about it and are on the same page about wanting to downsize and move somewhere smaller, the whole

process can be relatively smooth. We’re certainly very happy to have made the move, we wouldn’t look back and we’re absolutely enjoying our new life on the estate.”



An amazing life at Amity

There is arguably no bigger proponent of life at RAAFA's Amity Village Albany than nonagenarian Myra Yates, who has been immersed in the popular Albany estate since her arrival in 2013.

"You couldn't wish to live in a nicer place, it's really wonderful here," says Myra, who was born in Wales and brought up in Cheshire, before becoming a £10 pom and migrating from England in 1966 with her young family.

"Everyone looks after each other in this village and I'd say to anyone who is thinking about moving in here to not hesitate at all, just come, our little community has so much going for it."

Myra is a dedicated user of the estate's swimming pool, meeting four or five friends there every morning at 6.00am to swim and walk in the heated pool for an hour.

The mum of five sons and grandmother to nine also uses the shopping bus every Monday and Wednesday and is the coordinator of the egg delivery service on behalf of residents, which ensures

residents get a regular delivery of extra-large eggs, many of which she says are double yolkers.

The retired midwife also admits to keeping her brain active by playing bingo, cards and carpet bowls, as well as being a member of a number of different social groups.

"I've made so many friends since moving in and just everything about this place is perfect. The office staff are so helpful, the gardens are beautiful and it's just such a great place to retire to," says Myra, who travelled all over Australia with her late husband Alan in their caravan for over 18 years.

"We also have all sorts of entertainment, we have a Sunday roast every month, quiz nights and there's always lots of entertainment which means residents can really get involved in the estate and remain social if they want to.

"I can honestly say that moving into Amity Village was the best thing I ever did."



Committed to staying active



Ceridwen Fitzpatrick

The adage 'use it or lose it' has particular meaning to RAAFA's Amity Village community, with a significant proportion of the estate's residents committed to their fortnightly 'Stay on Your Feet' exercise classes.

And although she may not be Jane Fonda, Retirement and Well-being Coordinator Ceridwen Fitzpatrick is the beloved RAAFA team member who has been taking the popular classes for over three years now.

"Every year we do a feedback survey at the village, and every year we get the same response - keep the exercise classes going," laughs Ceridwen, who has an allied health background and has

worked in residential care and retirement villages for over 10 years.

"We really do have a lot of fun and it's also very relaxed, there's no dress requirements I just ask that people wear enclosed, flat shoes as opposed to sandals.

"Each week we have around 15 people come along, and we concentrate on mobility, balance and strength exercises, it's all about helping people to remain independent in our community.

"For safety, we do the exercises either sitting or standing by a chair and certainly the people who attend tell me they feel they are able to stand longer and walk further as a result of attending our regular classes."

Based on the WA falls prevention program, Stay On Your Feet,

participants take part in 45 minutes worth of exercises and are then sent home with a 'cheat sheet' with further exercises outlined, which they can practice at home.

"We all know that exercises for balance, flexibility and strength are really important as we age," adds Ceridwen. "And we really appreciate having such a committed, fun group which everyone enjoys.

"After class, people are more than welcome to join in with the morning tea held at the clubhouse where everyone can be a bit social, so it's a real win-win all round."

The exercise classes are held every Friday from 10.00am to 10.45am at Amity's clubhouse, and new residents are welcomed with open arms.

Dedication anniversary

Just two days before his 92nd birthday RAAFA's former honorary chaplain, Revd. David Oxley conducted the 22nd anniversary of the dedication of St Michael's Chapel on the Meadow Springs estate.

The Chapel was originally dedicated on 2 May 2002 by the Anglican Bishop of Bunbury, a representative of the Catholic Church and the then Moderator of the Uniting Church in WA.

As the guest speaker for the occasion, David welcomed Revd. Dr Ian Tozer, the current Moderator of the Uniting Church to a congregation of residents and guests. Under a title of "Diversity is a Gift" Dr Tozer spoke about the importance of living in relationships that respected the gifts of others.

After the service the anniversary cake was cut and enjoyed by everyone, not forgetting the staff.



LtoR David Oxley and Ian Tozer

Sleepout to highlight homelessness



RAAFA's Chief Growth Officer, Mark Bow, will join other leaders in business, community and government on 20 June 2024 when he spends the night sleeping outside without shelter to highlight homelessness – an issue particularly important to RAAFA as an organisation.

Mark will participate in Vinnies CEO Sleepout next month to raise funds for the more than 10,000 people in WA who are homeless on any given night, and to also raise awareness for RAAFA's Andrew Russell Veteran Living (ARVL) program, which is set to provide ex-service personnel in WA who are homeless, or at risk of homelessness, an opportunity to access appropriate housing.

Mark explains the issues of homelessness is complex and doesn't just refer to people who live on the streets, but those who simply don't have a safe or stable place to live.

"Being involved in the Vinnies CEO Sleepout provides an opportunity to highlight the catastrophic problem of homelessness in Perth, something that has a massive impact on a

person's physical, emotional and mental health," he says.

"At the same time, our veteran community is confronted by a crisis. After risking their lives in active duty, their transition out of the services can become unreasonably hostile. In Western Australia, this is exacerbated by a once-in-a-century housing crisis.

"The rental market has seen unprecedented demand, leading to severe shortages in affordable housing and sharp rises in the cost of rental properties. These issues disproportionately affect the more marginalised people in our state – including people that RAAFA deeply cares about – veterans who are either homeless or at risk of homelessness.

"And so by taking part in this fundraiser, I thought I could do my small, but significant bit to help shine a light on the devastating outcomes and impacts homelessness has on so many of our most vulnerable West Australians, especially our veteran community.



"I hope that those in the RAAFA community will consider sponsoring me and supporting this important cause."

The CEO Sleepout will take place on 20 June 2024 at Optus Stadium from 6.00pm until 6.00am. Sponsor Mark today to help break the cycle of homelessness via <https://www.ceosleepout.org.au/fundraisers/markbow>

Steady progress on Stirling apartments

Work on the \$55 million Stirling apartments at AFME has been progressing slowly but surely over the last couple of months.

Luke Marrell, Site Manager at building contractor Georgiou, says the company is pleased with progress and that the site work is progressing well.

"At the back of the site, the plumbers have been busy trenching and installing pipework and manholes for the new sewer line," Luke explains.

"We have completed the first raft footing pour to the eastern stairwell, which we estimate took 130m³ of concrete, the equivalent of 24 concrete trucks, earlier this month and we have also commenced work on the southeastern corner of the site.

"We've also poured the concrete working foundation to the remaining raft footings being the first stairwell and the central lift shaft base, and the team has been busy installing the reinforcement, roughly 75 tonnes combined.

"Over the next month we will be focussing on the remaining footings and getting the walls installed to the two stairwells and the lift walls, as well as erecting the tower crane."



Forming stage six of the estate's master plan redevelopment, the Stirling project occupies the site of the former Sivyer, Harris, Fraser and Ingram buildings, and will see an additional 63 high quality apartments built to accommodate Western Australia's growing population of retired residents.

The contemporary purpose-designed apartments over six

floors will comprise one, two and three-bedroom configurations, with an additional residents' lounge and secure undercover car park located on the ground floor of the building.

Set to revitalise the northwestern corridor of AFME, the Stirling development adds to RAAFA's rich heritage in aviation and service, with the 107,590 sqm Bull Creek estate also home to the Aviation

Heritage Museum.

RAAFA's Air Force Memorial Estate master plan will see the site's original units replaced with contemporary apartment accommodation in stages over the next decade.

Georgiou Group has earmarked completion of the Stirling project by mid 2025.

Life membership for beloved quiet achiever

After more than four decades of service to the Aviation Heritage Museum, beloved volunteer and much respected team member Don Crane has received RAAFA life membership.

Don is quick to admit he has loved volunteering at the museum since migrating to Perth in 1983 with his wife.

"I was 30 something when I joined the museum so I have been around for a while, in fact when I first got involved the founding members were still very much involved," explains Don, who was born in Essex and now lives in Perth's northern suburbs, in Padbury.

"I've always been interested in aeronautics, and it was my love of aviation that first compelled me to start volunteering at the museum."

Don explains that he undertook an apprenticeship as a motor mechanic in his younger years and also took flying lessons in Perth, gaining his restricted licence until lessons got a little too expensive to continue.

"Flying with Air Australia out of Jandakot really helped me to better understand how aircraft work and I learnt a lot more about aviation, which has been so useful for my voluntary work," says Don, who has one son and two granddaughters.

"I volunteer every Thursday and Saturday and I love it. The museum is a terrific place to volunteer and make friends, plus being involved in all of the restoration work certainly keeps the grey matter healthy and happy," he laughs.

"If you ask me, it's no good retiring and watching TV every day, you need to do something worthwhile and you need to believe in what you're doing."

Don, who volunteers as a team leader, helps to coordinate the various different aircraft restoration projects that are taking place throughout the year, both at the museum and also at the storage facility the museum has at Willetton.

"We always have several jobs on the go at the same time. For example, we're currently working on the Hawker Hunter which is in storage and which we are restoring as a team of six," says Don, whose service extends well beyond restoration work given he was a member of the original Museum Historical Group, which later became the Museum Support Group, which still later became the Museum Branch in about 2009.

"We all work together so well, we have different backgrounds and have different levels of experience in various areas, but we all collaborate and have our own niche areas of expertise."

"At the same time, we don't take each other all that seriously. We have a good laugh and are very capable of taking the mick out of each other."

"Having said that, I'm really chuffed to be given life membership, it's so nice to be thought of so highly and appreciated in this way."



What fellow museum volunteers and members have to say about Don:

"A man who has done so much for the museum over a long time and thus should be in line for a Life Membership."

"It is very apparent to me that Don's knowledge and skills are legion, and he has personality and communication ability to disseminate these amongst all participants in projects in which he's involved. My experience with Don has always been of a willingness to engage when

information or cooperation is sought without any 'war stories' to embellish his own merit."

"I have been a member of various restoration teams since 1988. I am most impressed with the amount of time Don spends supervising the volunteers, and he himself has such a diversity of skills."

"Don's tireless work over many years, along with his management skills as a team leader has endeared him to all his volunteer colleagues as well as Museum Management."

Talented seniors set to make a difference to WA veterans

A group of talented seniors at AFME are using their creativity to show WA veterans they are loved and cared for.

Members of the knitting and crocheting group at RAAFA's Bull Creek estate are currently forging ahead to make dozens of crocheted blankets which will be placed on the beds at the newly renovated apartment building, Sir Valston Hancock House, in South Perth.

A joint initiative between RAAFA and RSLWA, which is funded by Hancock Prospecting, the apartments are set to provide quality housing for former members of the defence forces, particularly those facing problems in securing accommodation amid the ongoing housing crisis, and those moving out of their defence roles and back into community life.

"We wanted to send a message that someone cares," says Jean D'Cruz, who is leading the handmade blanket project, along with 17 other members of the crocheting group.

"Our group is focused on friendship and we meet every Thursday for a few hours where we are focused on having a catch up and crocheting the blankets."

"We have made around 30 so far and are determined to make many more so that they are available to all the veterans who move into the accommodation. We are so happy that, as a group of women who are all friends, we can do something meaningful during our catch ups and show the ex-veterans in a small way that they are appreciated and loved."

Sir Valston Hancock House is named after a former leader of the Royal Australian Air Force and the uncle



LtoR Jean DCruz, Pristine Hogan, Isabella Farr

of Mrs Gina Rinehart AO, Executive Chairman of Hancock Prospecting, and is currently being refurbished to create a total of nine two-bedroom apartments.

Set to open in the coming months, RAAFA will oversee the program's operations including property

maintenance, tenancy agreements, and collaboration with RSLWA. In turn, RSLWA will be responsible for promoting the program within the veteran community, securing tenants, and managing ongoing engagement with residents, including connecting them to wellbeing services.

Beloved resident celebrates 100th birthday

A stalwart of the RAAFA community celebrated her centenary surrounded by friends and family on 17 May.

Teddy Dean started life in South Australia, entering the world as the second eldest of four children and the only girl.

After completing her schooling in Adelaide, Teddy began work as an administrator before joining the Women's Auxiliary Australian Air Force (WAAAF) in her home state in the early 1940s, where she served as a clerk at Victoria Barracks and then at Mount Gambier.

"My years serving in the WAAAF were really fulfilling and the camaraderie was very strong, I made many firm friends, some of whom I still have today," says Teddy, whose brother died as a prisoner of war at the hands of the Japanese while he was serving in Thailand as a member of the Australian Army.

It was while working in an office overlooking the airstrip, that Teddy first noticed her husband-to-be, staff pilot Tom Dean - and they soon started passing messages through the window to each other.

The rest, as they say, is history and the couple married on 5 May 1944 at Nairne Methodist Church, around 40km outside of Adelaide, despite

them both continuing to serve in the Air Force.

After the war ended, the couple moved over to Perth where they lived in Applecross and went on to have three daughters, Kaye, Pam and Jennifer.

And while she decided to concentrate on being a full-time mum and homemaker, Teddy's husband became immersed in RAAFA, serving as a state president and on numerous committees over several decades.

Today, Teddy is a long-term resident at AFME's Gordon Lodge, where she admits to still doing the daily crossword to keep the 'grey matter' active, and also continuing to read, something which she has always loved.

"Everyone has been talking about my 100th birthday, but I'm really not bothered by age, to me it's just another birthday," laughs Teddy, who now has 11 grandchildren and more great-grandchildren than she says she can count.

"For me the secret to a long life is to just not worry. People ask me why I have no lines on my face and I say because I've spent my life not worrying, I've always thought worrying was a waste of time."



And does the new centenarian have a secret for a long life?

"I can't say that I never smoked because I did for about 10 years, in fact I can remember sitting on the end of my bed rolling up cigarettes when I was in the Air Force," Teddy laughs.

"And I have always enjoyed a drink as well, I loved a red wine with

dinner when I was younger, and now I still have one when I feel like it.

"My philosophy in life is just to take things as they come, I think that's the reason why I've lived to be 100 years old."

A very happy centenary to Teddy Dean, from all your friends at RAAFA.

Accolade awarded to Merriwa community

RAAFA's Merriwa Estate has been bestowed the coveted 2024 Waterwise Platinum Business of the Year award by the Water Corporation.

The prestigious award was awarded to the popular retirement community thanks to residents and staff working together tirelessly to save water and make a long-term commitment to efficient water management.

Over recent years, the retirement village and aged care site has reduced water use due to improved water consumption and fewer leaks, educated staff and residents to report water leaks quickly and retrofitted the estate's units to save water and energy.

Karen Huyton, Merriwa's Estate Manager, says the award was a testament to how everyone on the estate has worked together to save water.

"We're proud to be named 2024 Waterwise Business Platinum Winner. It wasn't the efforts of one or two people that won this award. Water savings take a team effort - one that includes staff, residents

and contractors - to achieve our results."

Water savings at the estate have majorly benefited from unit refurbishments upgrading to water efficient tapware, as an example, and tapping band replacements for better pipe connection throughout the village. These two initiatives have seen a drop in water usage. In addition, two new bores have reduced the estate's reliance on scheme water.

"Our water savings couldn't be achieved without the dedication of both staff and residents," adds Karen. "We encourage staff and residents to look for and report water leaks so they can be repaired as quickly as possible. Residents have been advised that they can use their 24/7 emergency panel to notify of any emergency grounds or maintenance issues such as a burst pipe.

"Over the past 12 months more residents have used this service outside business hours, which has seen a great outcome".

The team continues to work closely with plumbing and irrigation



LtoR Karen Huyton and Kylie Wheeler

contractors who provide a valuable education role to staff.

Since being introduced in 2007, the Waterwise Business Program has

saved a massive 148 billion litres of water - equivalent to 148 Optus Stadiums full of drinking water.

ANZAC Day Commemorations



Cambrai Village ceremony



Perth march RAAF Vietnam veterans



RAAFA Estate Merriwa dawn ceremony



Cambrai Village ceremony



Vivian Bullwinkel Lodge residents join the Cambrai ceremony



Perth march Women of the Air Force



Erskine Grove ceremony

Program enabling older customers

Customer service staff from the Department of Transport (DoT) visited RAAFA in Rockingham recently to assist residents navigate the DoT website.

Residents at Challenger Court were assisted to set up a DoT online account and gain familiarity with navigating the website.

DoT's Director of Service Delivery, Julie Briggs, said the pilot program was one of several initiatives designed to reduce the need for people to go to metropolitan driver and vehicle service centres.

"Foot traffic and wait times in our centres are increasing," explains Julie.

"At the same time, our online services are underutilised, and my team considered 'out of the box' solutions to encourage more people to use our online services.

"We found some reluctance among our older customers in making use of our online services, but we believe that can be addressed by focusing on specific customer groups, at their place of residence, demonstrating the benefits and ease of online service options."

And the great news is that feedback from the staff who visited Challenger Court has been overwhelmingly positive.

"Residents at RAAFA's village



genuinely appreciated the one-on-one time we provided in helping them understand DoTDirect in a more relaxed and familiar

environment," Julie added.

"Our staff's engagement and efforts were very well received."

Students a big hit at Erskine

Stanley College students Ma. Anngelu Piol and Bando Mastang Tampubolon have just finished a six-week placement at RAAFA's Erskine Grove estate and were quick to say they loved every minute of their time with the residents.

The volunteer placement represented a new trial with Perth-based Stanley College, and everyone agreed it was a win-win all round, with staff and residents at the popular retirement village also reporting loving their time with the two young students.

"They were very easy to talk to and the residents loved chatting to them and spending time with them," says Julie Glover, Erskine Grove's admin assistant.

"As well as spending a great deal of time with residents, they attended an advance care planning workshop and a staff meeting, so they were really exposed to many aspects of life here at the village."

34-year-old Bando who is close to

finishing his Diploma of Community Services said the whole experience was very positive.

"We spent lots of time with the residents, from card making, to arts and crafts, to attending home visits for social support and also doing a few odd jobs for them," he says.

"Everyone was extremely welcoming and friendly and the experience was really rewarding, we learnt so much."

Fellow student, Ma. Anngelu Piol, explains that she and Bando spent from Wednesday to Friday at the estate as part of the placement.

"The RAAFA placement was a great experience for me," she says. "I was exposed to so many life lessons from the residents and it also helped me to think and explore more about my own life direction into the future."

"The whole placement was very informative and was one of the best placements I've ever been fortunate to undertake."



Ma Anngelu Piol



Bando Mastang Tampubolon



Countless cuppas in bid to help cure cancer

Countless cuppas were on hand last month at RAAFA's Cambrai Village, as the residents lent a helping hand to support the 'Australia's Biggest Morning Tea' fundraiser - and in the process raise much needed funds to help fight cancer.

And from the perspective of one of the Social and Activities Committee hosts and organiser, Maureen Farrell, it wasn't hard to stir the residents and staff into action, given that everyone agrees that a mug of freshly brewed English Breakfast warms both the hands and the heart, and makes everything seem a little better.

Maureen admits that the fundraiser, which included a book and cake sale and scones with jam and cream, was well supported by residents, who were keen to 'make a cuppa to make a difference', as well as buy raffle tickets, where 42 prizes were up for grabs.

"Residents and staff were really keen to get involved in this year's biggest morning tea and, of

course, they don't need too much persuasion to indulge in a delicious cuppa, scones with jam, and an opportunity to catch up with friends," says Maureen.

"The philosophy of donating to good causes is definitely alive and well here at Cambrai Village and our wonderful community was very happy to support this fun fundraiser which raises money for a great cause.

"We are proud of that fact that we raised over \$4,200 as a result of the fundraiser, and we all had an enjoyable catch up in the process," adds Maureen.

Now in its fourth decade, Australia's Biggest Morning Tea is a community event that raises vital funds to make a big difference for those impacted by cancer by funding cancer research, prevention, education and support.

Cancer Council estimates that one in three cancers in Australia are preventable and one in two Australians will be diagnosed with cancer before they reach 85.

Club Bites

Proof of membership may be required when using facilities. Please have your card available. Non-members are required to be signed in by a member. Want to join? Applications and details available on our website.

MEADOW SPRINGS CLUB 9582 5375

All bookings for lunch and dinner can be made at the bar.

Weekly specials

Monday, roast corner - 2 courses, choice of 2 roasts \$19.50

Tuesday, special day - main meal with glass of house wine or midday \$19.50

Wednesday, club night buffet - meals from \$15.00, chase the ace, bingo and horse racing

Thursday, happy hour, 4.00pm to 6.00pm

Friday, special day - main meal with glass of house wine or midday \$19.50

Events

Saturday, 13 July - Christmas in July, 6.00pm



Red Hatters Purple Mania event

CAMBRAI CLUB 9304 5400

Weekly specials

Tuesday, darts and happy hour, 4.00pm

2nd Tuesday, parmi night, \$15.00. Bookings essential

Wednesday, morning tea, \$6.00 coffee and cake from 10.00am

1st and 3rd Wednesday, roast dinner \$24.00. happy hour from 4.00pm. Bookings essential

2nd and 4th

Wednesday, carvery \$25.00. happy hour from 4.00pm

Friday, lunch from 11.30am, no booking necessary

1st and 3rd Friday, sundowner and happy hour from 5.00pm



Movie charades a huge success. Can you pick the movie?

BULL CREEK CLUB 9311 4460

Weekly specials

Monday to Friday, light breakfast 9.00am to 10.00am

Monday to Friday, lunch 11.00am to 2.00pm

Monday, roast of the day special \$22.00

Monday and Wednesday, happy hour 4.00pm to 5.00pm

Tuesday, fish and chips \$22.00

Friday, dinner and raffles 5.00pm to 7.00pm

Saturday, new opening time 2.30pm to 6.30pm

Events

Saturday, 6 July - Christmas in July - roast turkey and ham carvery, plus Christmas pudding \$45.00pp. Tickets available at the bar.



Meet the team LtoR Phil Campbell - Head Chef, Phuntsho Wangdi - Kitchen Hand, Se Hyun Jang - Chef, and Simon Elton-Bott - Club & Functions Manager

MERRIWA CLUB 9400 3640

Blue Gum Café

Pop down for one of our daily specials or sample something off the menu. Now open Wednesday 11.00am to 2.00pm and Thursday 10.00am to 2.00pm.

Weekly specials

2nd Monday, Devonshire afternoon tea 2.00pm to 3.00pm

1st and 3rd Tuesday, club night \$16.00 parmi or pasta. Includes beverage (bookings essential)

Wednesday, roast lunch \$16.00

Wednesday, happy hour 4.00pm

Thursday, morning tea from 10.00am

Thursday, lunch specials \$16.00

2nd and 4th Friday, bistro night (bookings essential)

3rd Saturday, sundowner bar opens 4.00pm

Short stay accommodation

Time to get out and wander out yonder!!!! Why not have a change of scenery and stay in one of our fully equipped short stay accommodation units at Meadow Spring, Bull Creek or Merriwa. For information and bookings contact the relevant estate office or Club at Meadow Springs.

A bittersweet farewell to a beloved employee

The team at Vivian Bullwinkel Lodge bid a sad farewell recently to Wayne Skulley, who retired after 17 years of employment at RAAFA as the home's maintenance person.

Described as the heart and soul of Vivian Bullwinkel Lodge and an incredibly dedicated and kind employee, Wayne's tenure was honoured and celebrated with a morning tea, which included several speeches and special thanks from Carol Dickson, RAAFA's General Manager for Residential Care, who congratulated him on his retirement and thanked him for his hard work and dedication.

Facility Manager, Sheila Yardley, spoke on behalf of all staff in congratulating Wayne and thanking

him for 17 amazing years at the Lodge.

Peter Cox, the Lodge's Resident Representative, also spoke on behalf of all residents in thanking Wayne and wishing him well in the future.

Both agreed that Wayne upheld RAAFA's values of respect, care and honesty towards all residents, which made him an admired member of staff and a friend to residents. In addition, Wayne's work ethic, attention to detail and quick response made him a respected colleague and someone who could always be counted on.

In his farewell speech, Wayne took the time to specially thank Sheila, who he had worked with for many

years, and was candid in saying that his decision to retire was a difficult one.

Suffice to say, it was a bittersweet farewell for all who attended the farewell for our highly respected and beloved Wayne. Though what was clear was that all of his work colleagues, and the residents, wished him all the very best for a happy and very long retirement.



LtoR Sheila Yardley, Wayne Skulley, Carol Dickson

RAAFA Wellbeing Team

CAMBRAI VILLAGE

Vanessa Priestley
9304 5280

RAAFA ESTATE MERRIWA

Julie Neves
9400 3778

AFME

Jo Oliver
9311 4562

ERSKINE GROVE

Angeline Carleton
9586 4309

RAAFA ESTATE MEADOW SPRINGS

Mischa Matthews
9582 5369

RAAFA AMITY VILLAGE ALBANY

Ceridwen Fitzpatrick
9841 8311

Meadow Springs

Ulysses Club visit

For those who don't know, the Ulysses Club is the largest social motorcyclist club in Australia for the over 40's and we had the pleasure of a visit during their national rally in Mandurah.



Australian Hearing Bus

Visited and provided free hearing tests for residents, staff and volunteers.

Navigating residential care

Residents had the opportunity to receive information on navigating residential care from Simpatica and Mercy Care who provided a clearer insight on services available via the Commonwealth Home Support Program and Home Care Packages.

Erskine Grove

Happy hour

Opportunity for a relaxed weekly catchup with friends and neighbours.



Homegrown

There's nothing better than the taste of fresh homegrown produce and the residents have been busy in the garden. Just check out this pawpaw (papaya) that Bob grew.

Not only does gardening provide fresh and healthy food, it also promotes exercise, reduces stress and anxiety and increased a sense of purpose and accomplishment.



Stay connected! Renew your RAAFA membership

If you're a RAAFA member, we want to flag that your membership is set to expire at the end of June.

And so, if you're a fee-paying member, we invite you to renew your membership before the end of the month to continue to enjoy all the benefits and services we offer.

Your membership contributes to delivering the many services RAAFA provides, while also continuing our proud history of camaraderie and selflessness, providing services for seniors and supporting veterans, as well as serving Defence Force members and their families.

What's more, we're making improvements to our membership program to provide greater value and benefits, including loyalty rewards, discounts on day-to-

day items, services, experiences and adventures, in addition to networking events and forums, and opportunities to share ideas and collaborate.

So, please watch out for your renewal letter which will be arriving soon, and will include several payment options available for your convenience, including a new BPAY option.

And thank you in advance for your continued membership - it's a vital part of RAAFA's success and we look forward to achieving great things together in the coming year.

PS If you have updated or changed your contact details in the past year (and not already advised us), please contact membership@raafawa.org.au with

your new details (including full name, phone number and email address).

And a reminder that it is a condition of entry to RAAFA Clubs that

members have their RAAFA membership card available and that guests are signed in by a member.



ANDREW RUSSELL VETERAN LIVING (ARVL) APPEAL



SHOW YOUR SUPPORT TODAY

